

THE "EYE"

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

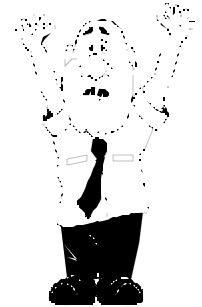
OCTOBER * NOVEMBER * DECEMBER 2004

ROBBERIES

Robbery is a crime against a person where something of value is taken by the use of force or by intimidation. Through the summer months there has been an increase in the number of personal robberies occurring in Lincoln. Cash, jewelry, and credit cards have been taken most often. Many of these robberies have been done by a group of people overpowering a single person. Others have been accomplished by one or two robbers using some kind of weapon, often a hand gun.

There are several things you should consider for your personal safety:

- Be alert and aware of your surroundings.
- Do not carry excessive amounts of cash.
- Carry your wallet in a front pocket.
- Tuck your purse close to your body and do not let it dangle.
- Try to travel with a companion.
- Stay in well lit areas at night.
- Do not carry weapons- they can be taken away and used against you.
- Consider all firearms to be real and loaded.



If you are the victim of a robbery try to comply with the criminal's demands. Your goal is to get away as soon as possible and avoid injury. No amount of cash or personal property are worth risking your life. During the crime try to remain observant. Get a description of the person to include, age, height, weight, clothing, jewelry, scars and tattoos. If they leave in a car try to get as much information about it as possible. As soon as you can safely get away, call 911 and stay on the phone with the dispatcher until the police arrive. Usually, good common sense, planning ahead, and being aware of your surroundings will prevent you from being victimized by these types of crimes.

Sorry, You Haven't Won the Canadian Lottery

If you have received a post card, phone call or an e-mail telling you that your financial troubles are over because you have just won a million dollar lottery, don't quit your day job. You have just joined a large group of potential victims to a very active scam. The way it works is that you will be notified you have won a Canadian Lottery and will be mailed a check that you are to deposit in your account. After making the deposit you are to wire back just enough money to pay the taxes on your winnings. The alleged lottery official will tell you that the money you are wiring back to them allows them to release your winnings to you. Not long after you wire the money to the lottery official you will find that the check you received from them is a counterfeit. The fact that victims in these cases wired money to these con-artists makes it very difficult to recover any of the loss.

The following are some of the red flags that should help you avoid falling prey to this scam: The first one being that you have won a lottery from another country. Nebraska State Statute 29-1101 says that a person advances gambling activity if they engage in the procurement, sale, or offering for sale or interest in a lottery of another state or government. So, if you have just been told that you have won the Nigerian, Spanish or Canadian lottery, there is no legal way, in Nebraska, you could have entered it to start with. The second is the request to wire the money back to the alleged lottery official. This is a common means of operation for a number of con games because the scam artist gets the money before the victim has a chance to realize they have been taken.

As long as we are picking on the Canadians, there is another scam coming out of Canada. This one involves the sale of an item on the internet in which a buyer from Canada purchases the item and then mails the seller a check for a great deal more than the agreed purchase price. The buyer will then request that the seller deposit the check and mail or wire them a check for the difference. After sending back the check for the overage the victim finds the check they deposited was a counterfeit. Not only is the seller out the merchandise, if they shipped it, they are also out the money sent back to the alleged buyer. When dealing on the internet it is a good idea to use an escrow account if possible. Keep in mind that the checks being sent are not just forged checks, but counterfeit checks, and it may take a while to determine if they are valid. While the most recent offenses have originated from Canada, remember the same types of scams have come from Nigeria and other countries. The main thing is to recognize the red flags that this is a scam.

Crime Statistics Breakdown

Compared to this same time last year, all categories of reported crimes are down in numbers. For the whole city there have been:

- 2% fewer calls for service;
- 0.2% fewer residential burglaries; and,
- 15.1% fewer larcenies from autos- a great improvement!

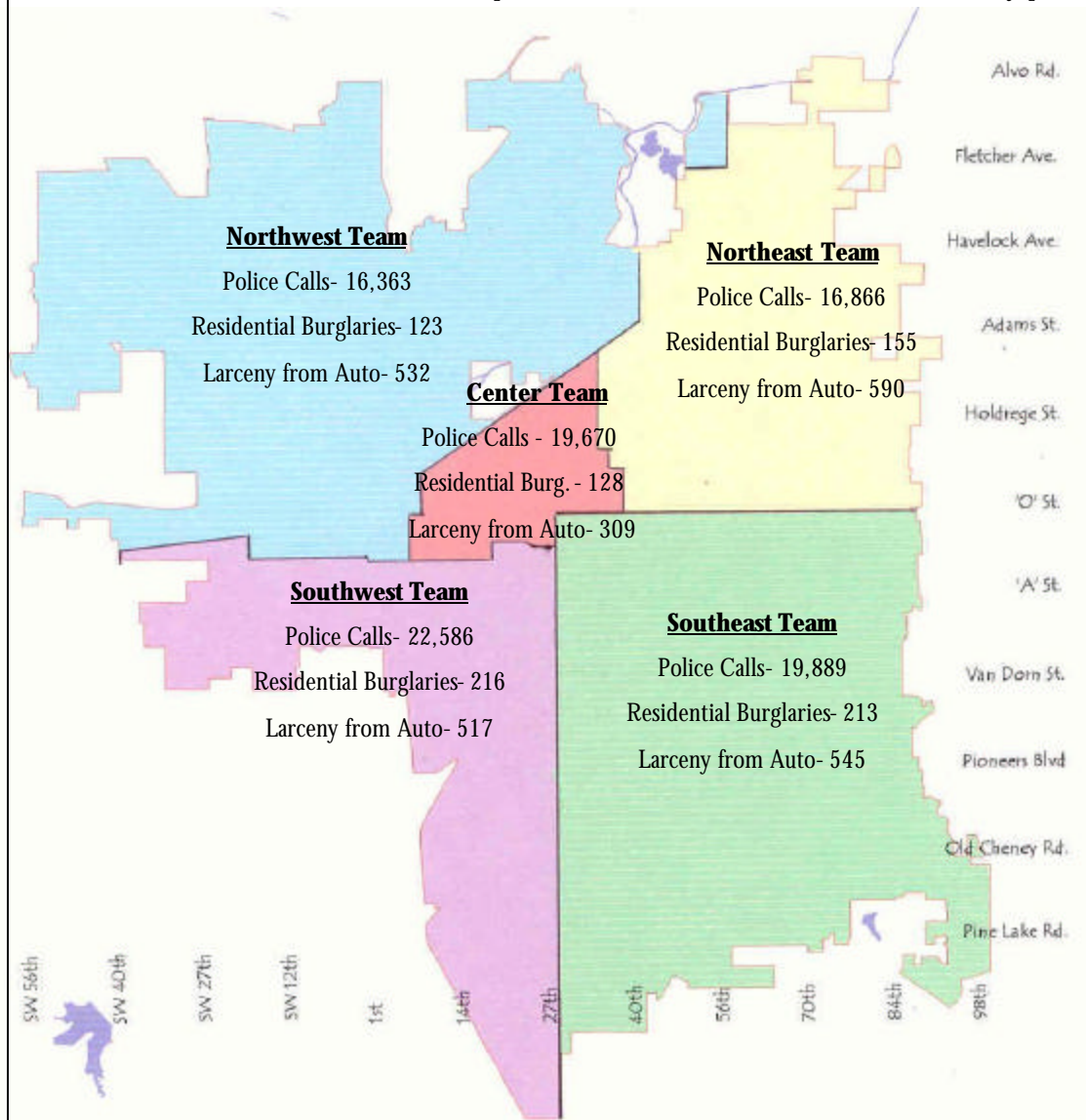
If you look at the numbers of Police Calls for each team area you should realize that this number is more a reflection of the amount of population living in that area, not a reflection of how "good" an area it is to be in.

Regarding burglaries, residents should still be considering home security and alertness toward suspicious behavior or people in the neighborhood.

The improvement in larcenies from autos can be attributed to heightened awareness and a positive response from citizens.

SUMMARY OF REPORTED CRIMES between 1-1-2004 and 8-31-2004

For additional information, statistics, or crime maps refer to the LPD web-site at: www.ci.lincoln.ne.us/city/police



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT: Tuesday, August 3rd, was the 21st annual National Night Out. Once again the citizens of Lincoln responded with several groups participating throughout the city. Despite being the hottest day of the summer (100° with a 105° heat index), there were several picnics, potlucks, and other gatherings. There was good media interest with Margaret Stones' group, #165AD, being featured on Channel 10/11 by John Vanderford, and Marcia & James Young's group, #97AG, being featured on Channel 8 with Dick Janda. Additionally, Mayor Coleen Seng made personal appearances at several neighborhood events. National Night Out is a good way to get our message across that neighbors who communicate and take an interest in working together will be the most successful at preventing crime in their area.

NEW PACKET SIZE: Postage weight changes caused us to have to change newsletter bundles from a maximum of ten to a maximum of eight. Some of you experienced a shortage of newsletters at the last mailing in July. We believe we have our computer corrected so it won't drop off some of the labels for those groups larger than eight members. Just to make sure though, please count your newsletters to assure you have one for each member. Give us a call, at 441-7261, if you are short any and we will get them sent out (and work further to correct the problem).

GOT COPS?: We would like citizens to feel comfortable about calling the police if they need them. Please DO NOT call your group's coordinator and expect them to call the police for you. That is not part of their responsibility to Neighborhood Watch. Remember that if you have an emergency, or if you believe there is an in-progress crime, call **911**. If you discover you have been the victim of a crime that is belated and there is no urgent need, call **441-6000**. If you have a complaint, questions about a case, or need to communicate with an officer, please call the LPD Service Desk at **441-7204**.

LINCOLN POLICE CITIZEN ACADEMY



Citizen Academy participants getting hands-on training with RADAR

Did you ever wonder what it was like to respond to a crime in progress? Arrest a drunk driver? Search a dark room for criminals?

Well here is your chance. The Lincoln Police Department has been giving citizens an inside look into these and many other questions in a program called "The Citizen Academy." Since 1989 over 500 citizens, just like you, have had this opportunity. The Citizen Academy is held twice a year, in the spring and fall. It consists of classroom presentations and hands-on instruction, all of which are designed to increase your knowledge of the Lincoln Police Department. It is a nine week program that meets from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. on Thursday evenings. Once you have completed the academy, a graduation ceremony is held in conjunction with the Lincoln Police Department awards ceremony.

Participants must meet the following criteria: Live or work in the City of Lincoln; be 18 years of age or older; have no felony or serious misdemeanor arrests; and, be willing to commit to the nine week program. There is no cost.

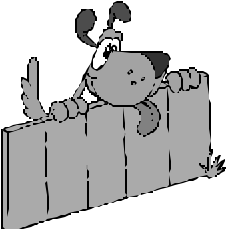
If you are interested in participating in the Citizen Academy you can register on-line at:

www.ci.lincoln.ne.us/city/police/citacad.htm

Or you can call the Crime Prevention Group, at **441-7261**, for additional information or an application.

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS IN OUR COMMUNITY *Kris Johnson, Animal Control*

For the most part, dogs and their owners in Lincoln are good neighbors. When Animal Control receives complaints, most can be solved by education. However, there are always a few people who don't seem to learn. One of the most frustrating problems is that owners don't train and socialize their dogs. Teaching them to be good canine citizens is extremely important. Selecting the appropriate breed for your family is essential. Start with what you plan to do with your dog. All dogs originally had specific jobs, such as a German Shepherd Dog is in the Herding Group. Don't be surprised if he tries to herd the children in the family. After choosing the right breed, check out his personality. Is he friendly, shy, or bold? Go to a reputable breeder. Don't bring home a "problem" puppy. Most problem puppies cause a lot of challenges for the owner. Some puppies may become aggressive and will try to dominate the household. Those dogs will bite for several reasons and proper socialization is crucial to avoid dog bites.



Some people think a particular breed of dog is worse than another. One fact is an unaltered male dog is more likely to be aggressive than a neutered male. Another interesting fact is the highest percentage (44.8%) of bites, where the dog lives, occurred inside the residence. In the fiscal year 2003, the top twelve dog breeds having the highest share of bites are:

PITBULL-33 LABRADOR-26 GERMAN SHEPHERD-13 LABRADOR MIX-13

GERMAN

SHEPHERD MIX-13

CHIHUAHUA-11 ROTTWEILER-11

AUSTRALIAN SHEPHERD-10

PITBULL MIX-10

CHOW CHOW

MIX-8

BOXER-8

SHELTIE-8

Victims should report bites and attacks. An attack means that the bite did not break the skin. Animal Control also takes reports on dogs attacking or biting another dog or pet.

When dog bites occur, they are placed in one of three categories: Potentially Dangerous, Dangerous, and Vicious. Potentially Dangerous is a warning stage where the bite inflicted a non-severe wound and the owner is notified that he or she needs to control their dog's behavior and keep it confined or on a leash at all times. Dangerous stage is

Santa Cop Auction

Santa Cop is a program created by Lincoln Police Officers in 1980. Officers witnessed a need in our community for less privileged children to be able to experience a giving holiday season. Santa Cop relies on donations and on money obtained by fund raising activities. The money is used to purchase brand new toys for local children. One of the fund raisers is the annual Santa Cop Auction. Starting at 11:00 a.m. there is a silent auction of numerous products displayed on tables. After the silent auction is complete a live auction begins with Col. Jan Kaufman calling the sales.

This year's Santa Cop Auction will be held on November 20th, beginning at 11:00 a.m., at the State Fair Grounds Lancaster Building. Please come and support this local charity that gives back 100% to our community.

See us at: www.santacop.org



*The "EYE"
Neighborhood Watch*

LINCOLN POLICE DEPARTMENT
CRIME PREVENTION GROUP 441-7261
575 SOUTH 10TH ST.
LINCOLN NE, 68508

Return Service Requested



Boo at the Zoo

The Lincoln Police Department Crime Prevention Group will again participate in ***Boo At The Zoo*** this year. The Folsom Children's Zoo, 1222 S. 27th, will be sponsoring this event beginning on Tuesday October 26th through Saturday October 30th. The zoo is open between 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Come through the zoo for a safe and fun Trick or Treat experience.



Faded Neighborhood Watch Signs

The Lincoln Neighborhood Watch Program has been around for over two decades. You may have noticed that a great number of the Neighborhood Watch street signs look as though they need to be replaced. I'm sure some of these signs were put up in 1981 when this crime prevention program was started. The sign is an important part of this neighborhood plan. It announces to the would be offender that the neighbors in this area watch out for each other and will call the police when they see criminal activity. That is why it is necessary

that we continue to replace the old faded signs. We are asking for your help in locating them. If you are aware of a Neighborhood Watch sign that needs to be replaced, please call us at Lincoln Police Department Crime Prevention Group, phone number **441-7261**, and give us the location of the sign. If the Neighborhood Watch group in the area is still active we will have the sign replaced, if it's not we will have the sign removed. Neighborhood Watch is still alive and well in Lincoln Nebraska, help us keep it looking that way.



An aged Neighborhood Watch sign - The border and some of the lettering have faded over the years. We want to avoid this "run